

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 4 stands objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of claim 1.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kashimoto* (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,645).

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kashimoto*.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants propose to amend claim 1 by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-20 remain currently pending with claims 1-4 under consideration.

Claim Objection

Claim 4 stands objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of claim 1. In particular, the Final Office Action asserts that because “claim 1 recites a light shielding layer formed on the second substrate except regions corresponding to an active region (i.e., pixel electrodes and TFT components.),” the feature of the light shielding layer comprising a matrix arrangement in the action region as set forth in claim 4 fails to further limit the subject matter of claim 1. The objection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully assert that no portion of independent claim 1 sets forth that the light-shielding layer has a “matrix arrangement” in the active region. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 does further limit the subject matter of independent claim 1, and the withdrawal of the objection of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) & 103(a)

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kashimoto*. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kashimoto*. To the extent that these rejections might be applied to the claims, as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Kashimoto* does not anticipate the present claimed invention because *Kashimoto* does not disclose all of the features of independent claim 1. For instance, it is respectfully submitted that *Kashimoto* fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least “a light-shielding layer in the pad and active regions except the sealing region on the second substrate.”

The Final Office Action appears to assert that the light shielding layer (26) as taught by *Kashimoto* corresponds to the “light-shielding layer” as set forth in independent claim 1. However, *Kashimoto* teaches that “[a] light-shielding layer 26 is formed on the back surface of the color-filter substrate 20 to surround the black matrix 22 and the stripe-arranged color filters 23, 24, and 25.” Column 5, lines 51-53 of *Kashimoto*. In addition, as shown in FIG. 4 of *Kashimoto*, the light shielding layer (26) is formed only in the active region. That is, the light shielding layer (26) of *Kashimoto* is not formed in a pad region. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that *Kashimoto* fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least “a light-shielding layer in the pad and active regions except the sealing region on the second substrate.”

M.P.E.P. § 2131 states “[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Applicants respectfully submit that since *Kashimoto* does not teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1, *Kashimoto* does not anticipate claim 1. Further, since claims

2 and 3 depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that *Kashimoto* also does not anticipate claim 2 or render claim 3 unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

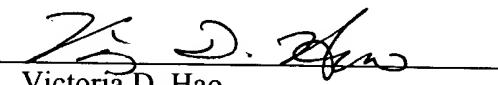
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in alternative, in better form for appeal. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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